

Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Happy 1st Birthday!


Dear Friends -

Happy 1st Birthday! Thank you for everything you have done to support Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park in its first year. So many great things have happened thanks to the partners, volunteers, community members, staff, and the general public. It is a continued honor to be a part of building this new national park - thank you for joining us in this journey.

We continue to work on establishing a boundary - with state government agencies, nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and community members - in order to determine the most important resources to preserve and protect for future generations. A strategic planning process is also underway. Stay tuned for your chance to give us input. Stakeholder meetings are being planned for the spring.

NPS Rangers and volunteers are out and about in the valley. We are at partner and community events, educational programs, and community meetings (know of one we should attend?). We are working on junior ranger programs, publications, the park's website, social media, signs...the list goes on. If you want to get involved in any of these activities, check out the volunteer section for contact information - we'd love to have you.

Sincerely,



Meghan Kish
Superintendent
Blackstone River Valley
National Historical Park

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nps.gov/BLRV
Facebook.com/BlackstoneNPS

New Faces at Blackstone



Joshua Boles is the Chief of Interpretation and Education for Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. He moved to New England last April with his wife, two children, two dogs, and a cat. Prior to his arrival, Josh worked at three national parks in North Carolina. Josh is most excited about discovering the stories of the Blackstone Valley and then sharing them with visitors. He can be reached at Joshua_Boles@nps.gov.



Paul Logozzo is the Maintenance Lead for Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. He comes to us with a strong military background retiring from the Army Reserves as a Major and performing tours of duty in Germany, Afghanistan and Liberia. Most recently, Paul worked for the National Highway Traffic Administration. Paul is most excited about springtime at the park and the many flowers we plan on planting this year. He can be reached at Paul_Logozzo@nps.gov.



Denise DeLucia is the Administrative Assistant for Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. Denise worked as a Park Ranger at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park for over two years before taking this new position. She is most excited about working in the valley with wonderful, knowledgeable people and immersing herself in its rich history. She can be reached at Denise_DeLucia@nps.gov.

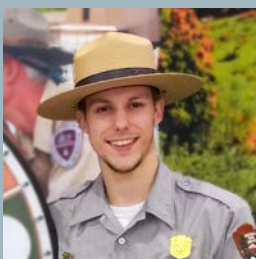
Special Thanks



Dan McCarthy was the Acting Facility Manager for Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. He assisted the park with developing a facility maintenance program. When not helping new parks figure things out, Dan works at the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. Dan gave great ideas and suggestions that will help shape the creation of a new park. He can be reached at Dan_McCarthy@nps.gov.



Andrew Schnetzer served as a seasonal Park Guide at Roger Williams National Memorial and Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. He has worked for the NPS for eight years and, this past season, was actively engaged with Blackstone's Ranger Walkabout Series, the innovative pop-up visitor center at the Kelly House Transportation Museum, giving guided tours in Pawtucket, helping out at special events, and interacting with virtual visitors on our social media page.



Tyler Shepard served as a seasonal Park Ranger at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park and Roger Williams National Memorial. Although Tyler was primarily responsible for greeting visitors and assisting in developing their visitor experience, ranging from delivering informal interpretive talks to simply helping with directions, at the Memorial's visitor center in Providence, he was tapped to assist with many public events and school programs in the Blackstone River Valley.

What's Happening in the New Park?

Planning for a Park



An important piece of starting a new park is thoughtful and thorough planning. Currently, the park is working with key partners on a 5-year strategic plan. Next year, the park will work on a foundation document, the plan that defines the key resource needs for each National Park Service unit.

Last year, we were fortunate to have the expertise of Jess Neubelt, a graduate student in the Historic Preservation and Community Planning program at the University of Pennsylvania. She assisted with first-phase planning initiatives, including researching the status of historic preservation in the four mill villages. Park

management has been charged with proposing a boundary for the new park and, building on Jess' work, will continue to work with town leadership to help inform that decision.

Stakeholder meetings and listening sessions are planned for May 2016 to update partners and constituents on all the planning progress made and to outline next steps. We look forward to working with all of you!

Engaging Youth in the Valley

Participation in National Manufacturing Day



Manufacturing in Blackstone River Valley came alive for 160 seventh and eighth grade students on Manufacturing Day, a day that celebrates the men and women whose work is the backbone of our economy. The students spent the day at manufacturing firms

to learn the importance of modern-day manufacturing to the economy. They shadowed employees and learned about employment opportunities in the re-emerging manufacturing sector in the Blackstone River Valley.

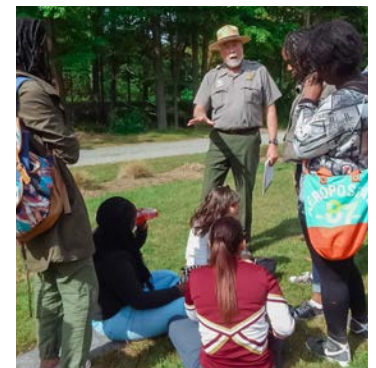
"Ticket-to-Ride" Transportation Grant Takes Off

Fourth grade students from the Francis McGrath Elementary School and ninth graders from the Engineering and Technology Academy at the Doherty High School participated in a series of field trips made possible by the National Park Foundation's Ticket-to-Ride program.

Their adventures out into the resource provided practical and relevant real-life

applications to what they have learned in the classroom.

For example, the Blackstone River left a powerful impression on the students as it turned the mighty water wheel at Old Slater Mill. Such experiences require a great deal of collaboration between educators, the staff of our partner historic sites, and the National Park Service. Thank you to all who participated.



Every Kid in a Park

Calling All 4th Graders!



"Because no matter who you are, no matter where you live, our parks, our monuments,

our lands, our waters — these places are your birthright as Americans." PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

Did you know? If you are 10 years old or in fourth grade, you can participate in a fun online activity and receive a voucher for a free 4th Grade Annual Pass to your national parks. This program, called

Every Kid in a Park, runs until August 30, 2016. The staff and volunteers at your national park are excited to share their sites and stories with young people.

If you're interested in additional information and have a fourth grader in your family, please visit: **Everykidinapark.gov**

Partner Spotlight

Interview with Paulette D. Hamilton Town Administrator, North Smithfield, RI



We were lucky enough to have some time to sit down with Paulette Hamilton, Town Administrator, North Smithfield, RI to talk about the inclusion of Slatersville in the new national park.

What are you hearing from town residents about the new park?

People are very excited about it [the new park]. People have been asking, "When are we going to see signs? When are we going to see tour buses?" The stone arch bridge project is still in process of being repaired. Once that whole area is upgraded, it's going to be fantastic, with pedestrian walkways, a beautiful park with period lighting, all ADA accessible. The whole town is proud of the fact that we are in the new park, and we are starting to think differently now. I find myself doing that too.

Can you give an example of how people are thinking about themselves through the new park lens?

I had a meeting with the bus company which is right over the other side of the Stone Arch Bridge. I said to them, "You know what? You're going to be the gateway to this new national park because people coming down Providence Pike will be coming into the area and everything will open up into the village of Slatersville. We have to have something exciting for people to see. We can't have old, decrepit buses sitting there and people driving by with their kids and coming to this beautiful area to see that." Once you begin explaining that to people, it's amazing how they want to jump on the bandwagon and get involved.

So we asked the bus company if there is anything they could do to make the entrance more appealing and they said, "We're going to move all those old buses out of there. We'll make it look presentable, and if you need a place for buses to turn around, we'll be happy to put a bus turnaround there." As soon as you see the signs start going up, it

becomes official in people's minds. For those of us who have worked on it for so long, it is official, but once you start seeing signs, literally and figuratively of the National Park presence, you'll see lots of people join forces.

What are you excited about when thinking about the new park?

It is amazing how the history of this community is known all over the world. It was an incredible place that was so vibrant. It will probably never get to be that way again, but I think what we are all aware of is that we have a responsibility to keep what's here and make sure, generations from now, that people can come and see what it used to be like in the old days.



Volunteer at the Park

Calling All Volunteers!



Want to help write a newsletter? Are you looking for a way to get more involved with the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park?

Then become a **VIP** (Volunteers In Parks). The National Park Service's volunteer program, is a great way to give back to the resources that you love. There are many different volunteering opportunities

from helping to present programs, cleaning up the riverbanks, or helping to preserve our historic resources.

For more information about becoming a VIP with the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, contact Kevin Klyberg at 401-762-0250 ex 5501, or at Kevin_Klyberg@nps.gov.